

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01991 291315Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 DHA-02 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /073 W
-----300830Z 050301 /10

R 290913Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3844
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1991

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT LE
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH AMINE GEMAYEL OF THE KATAEB (PHALANGE)
PARTY

REF: BEIRUT 1412

1. DCM MET WITH AMINE GEMAYEL ON TUESDAY, APR 26. DURING TWO-
HOUR LUNCHEON CONVERSATION, HE MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS:

2. IRAQI-SYRIAN RAPPROCHEMENT. AMINE WAS VERY INTERESTED
IN THE VISIT OF HAFEZ AL-ASAD TO MOSCOW AND CONCERNED ABOUT
THE CLOSER TIES BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE USSR. HE MENTIONED THAT
THE KATAEB PARTY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS WERE
TRYING TO PROMOTE AN IRAQI-SYRIAN RAPPROCHEMENT, WHICH HE
THOUGHT WAS A REAL POSSIBILITY SINCE IT WOULD SEEM TO BE IN
THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES. HE IS FEARFUL THAT IF THIS
DOES HAPPEN IT WILL TEND TO WEAKEN THE PRESENT RELATIVELY
GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN HAFEZ AL-ASAD AND THE LEBANESE
CHRISTIANS.

3. SPECIAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AMINE TALKED AT SOME
LENGTH, AS HE DID PREVIOUSLY (REFTEL) ABOUT HIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01991 291315Z

DESIRE FOR A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. HE
SAID THE KATAEB AND THE U.S. WERE NATURAL ALLIES AND
IMPLIED THAT THE KATAEB WAS READY TO ADOPT ALMOST ANY
POLICY THAT THE USG THOUGHT WAS BEST FOR LEBANON.
AT SAME TIME, HE INSISTED THAT HIS PARTY HAD NEVER
ACCEPTED MONEY FROM ANYONE AND WOULD NOT BE A "PAID
AGENT." DCM REITERATED THAT WHILE WE WERE INTERESTED

IN KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE LEADERS OF THE KATAEB,
WE SUPPORTED PRESIDENT SARKIS AND
BELIEVED THAT A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WAS THE
BEST PROTECTION FOR CHRISTIAN INTERESTS IN LEBANON.
WE COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT USE ONE OF LEBANON'S
POLITICAL PARTIES AS OUR CHOSEN INSTRUMENT.

4. INTERNAL POLITICS. DCM REMARKED THAT IN HIS
PERSONAL VIEW, ONE OF THE WEAKNESSES OF THE SO-CALLED
LEBANESE FRONT WAS THAT IT INCLUDED ONLY CHRISTIANS;
IT WOULD BE MORE CREDIBLE AS A TRULY LEBANESE
ORGANIZATION IF WERE BROADENED TO INCLUDE OTHER
ELEMENTS. AMINE REPLIED THAT THE KATAEB WAS WORKING
IN THIS DIRECTION. HE REFERRED TO HIS MEETING WITH
WALID JUNBLATT EARLIER THIS MONTH AND SAID THAT
ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE CHRISTIANS WOULD NOT ACCEPT
COOPERATION WITH WALID OR THE DRUZE BECAUSE OF THE
POSITIONS TAKEN BY KAMAL, HE, AMINE, THOUGHT THE
KATAEB SHOULD COOPERATE WITH OTHER TRULY LEBANESE
ELEMENTS, IF THEY WERE PREPARED TO PUT LEBANON FIRST.
HE HINTED THAT HE WAS TRYING TO WORK OUT A BROADER
LEBANESE FRONT, INCLUDING KEMAL ASAD'S SHIA AND WALID.

5. RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. AMINE SAID THAT THE
KATAEB RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL HAD BEEN CLOSER THAN HE
WOULD HAVE LIKED BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN A PERIOD WHEN
HIS PARTY FELT CUT OFF FROM THE UNITED STATES. HE
SAID THAT IN THE DARKEST DAYS OF THE WAR (FROM THE
KATAEB POINT OF VIEW), THE ISRAELIS HAD PROPOSED TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 01991 291315Z

THE KATAEB THAT THEY BE ITS CHANNEL TO THE UNITED
STATES. ALTHOUGH MANY CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS WANTED
TO ACCEPT THIS OFFER, SHAYKH PIERRE, THE LEADER OF
THE PARTY, HAD CATEGORICALLY REFUSED SAYING THAT HIS
CONTACTS WITH THE U.S. WOULD BE DIRECT OR NOT AT ALL.

6. THE ARMY. AMINE SAID HE IS WORKING WITH GENERAL
KHOURY TO TRY TO ORGANIZE PRIMARILY CHRISTIAN FORCE,
WITH SOME "GOOD" MOSLEM OFFICERS, TO GO TO THE SOUTH.
DCM MENTIONED HE HAD MET COLS. SARLUK AND QURAYTIM
(BOTH MOSLEMS) AND THEY SEEMED LIKE GOOD MEN; IT WAS
TOO BAD HANNA SAID HAD SPURNED THEM. AMINE SAID HE
KNEW THE OFFICERS AND THEY WERE SINCERE LEBANESE.
HE SAID THAT FRANKLY SPEAKING HANNA SAID HAD BEEN A
DISASTER AND WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COLLAPSE
OF THE LEBANESE ARMY.

7. COMMENT: AMINE, WHO SEEMS TO BE THE ORGANIZATION
MAN IN THE PARTY IN CONTRAST TO HIS BROTHER BACHIR,

THE MILITIA COMMANDER, IS OBVIOUSLY ANXIOUS TO DEVELOP
CLOSE TIES WITH THE USG. HE REMARKED THAT HIS
PARTY PREFERS THE NAME "KATAEB" TO "PHALANGE"
BECAUSE THE LATTER RECALLS THE FASCIST PARTY IN SPAIN
AND HIS PARTY WAS NOT FASCIST.
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT01991
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770151-0904
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977046/aaaaaevo.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a741b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 1412
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2815029
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH AMINE GEMAYEL OF THE KATAEB (PHALANGE) PARTY
TAGS: PINT, LE, (GEMAYEL, AMINE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a741b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009